

Graue Water Mill  
Fullersburg, Illinois (vicinity)

Du Page Co

HABS 26-6  
HABS  
ILL,  
22-FULB.V,  
1

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No.26

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Earl H. Reed, Jr. District Officer  
Room 404, No. 520 No. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois

GRAUE WATER MILL  
DU PAGE COUNTY  
FULLERSBURG, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT NO. 26  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED, JR.  
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. 26-6

By Frederick Johnck

SOURCE

F.W.Graue

The Graue Water Mill is situated one-half mile north of Fullersburg (or approximately one mile north of Ogden Avenue, Du Page County, Illinois. It is located on the banks of Salt Creek.

The construction of the brick section of this mill was begun in 1847 and completed in 1852. It was erected by Frederick Graue, then owned and operated by his son F.W.Graue, and then by his grandson, Walter Graue.

The mill with the land was sold recently and is now included in the DuPage County Forest Preserves.

The frame sheds on the east and west were erected in 1884 by F.W.Graue. The brick section of the building was planned, erected and machinery installed by a millwright brought here from New York. No plans of the building are on record.

The mill was run by water power until 1916 when the dam broke. A steam boiler and engine were then installed which furnished power until 1924. It has not been operated since that time. The engine and boiler have been removed from the premises. The original mill contained three grinders. Only two grinder beds remain in the building.

The brick in the building is made from clay taken from the farm and burned in a brick kiln near the site. The stone for foundations and trim came from a lime stone quarry near Lemont. Lemont is a village approximately twelve miles south east of the site. The timbers for posts, girders and joist are of red oak and cut in a timber track along the canal near Lemont.

A portion of the original turbine mill wheel is still in place. It is of cast iron and cost the original owners \$1200.

The mill ground wheat for flour, corn, oats, rye and buckwheat.

The original entrance door was a Dutch door 3'6" wide. The original platform at the entrance was of wood construction.

The basement walls are of stone varying in size from 3" x 8" to 11" x 21" laid at random. The upper walls are of brick 2" x 4" x 8" in size, buff red in color and are laid up with brick five courses of stretchers and then one course of headers. The five courses with the brick joints measure 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

All timbers on the inside are of oak, neatly mortised together and secured with wood pegs. Posts are dowelled into the girders at top and bottom. (No bolster or post caps are used.)

The workmanship such as masonry and carpentry is of a very high standard.

In January 1934 a letter was written to the Board of Commissioners, DuPage County Forest Preserved calling attention to the condition of the building and its historical value. Action has since been taken to restore the building to its original condition. The wood sheds have been removed and a new dam constructed. It is also the intention of the Commissioners to repair the walls of the old mill, install new windows and remove all machinery and grain spouts except those in use in the original building.

By Fredrick J. Juch  
Approved Edward J. Juch  
District Officer

January 20, 1934

*Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.*